USDA-SCS
Section II-E
Area 7

VERY SHALLOW

RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

PE 25-31

Land Resource Area: High Plains

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs on nearly level to steeply sloping areas. Slopes are generally 2-30 percent. Elevation ranges from 2600 to 3900 feet.

2. SOILS:

   a. The soils are very shallow brown to grayish-brown loams and fine sandy loams. Soils are slightly to very calcareous and are underlain by soft to rocklike caliche at a depth of 4-20 inches. If unprotected by plant cover, this site is susceptible to wind erosion. The gravel to rock-like mulch on the surface of the soil aids in water intake. This results in a good plant-soil-moisture-air relationship enabling plants to respond readily to light rainfall.

   b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are: Potter soils and Kimbrough soils.

   c. Specific site location:

3. CLIMATE - See Field Office Climatic Description

4. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

   a. The shallow soil profile limits the development of tall grasses. They are found on the site in pockets of deeper soils and areas receiving extra water. Generally the site aspect is that of a short grass country with remnants of mid and tall grasses and an occasional woody shrub.

Relative Percentage

Grasses	90%	Forbs	5%	Woody	5%
Sideoats grama	20	Dotted gayfeather		Catclaw	
Blue grama	15	Bush sunflower		Yucca	
Buffalograss	10	Orange Zexmenia		Ephedra	
Black grama	10	Catclaw sensitivebriar		Dalea species	
Hairy grama		Trailing ratany		Juniper	
Wright threeawns	5	Gaura species			
Sand dropseed	5	Louisiana sagewort			
Vine-mesquite	T	Prairie clover			
Feather bluestem	10	Wild alfalfa			
Hooded windmillgrass	T	Dalea species			
Fall witchgrass	T	Bundleflower			
Slim & rough tridens	5				
Little bluestem	5				
New Mexico feathergrass	T				

b. Heavy grazing use of this site results in the replacement of sideoats grama, blue grama and buffalograss, with sand dropseed and threeawns. Upon further deterioration sand dropseed and threeawns give way to hooded windmillgrass, hairy tridens, false broomweed and annuals.

c. Approximate total annual air dry yield of the site in excellent condition ranges from 400 to 800 pounds per acre depending on rainfall.

5. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: This site is not conducive to the production of wildlife. Occasionally birds feed upon the seeds of several forbs. Coyotes use the site for dens. When the areas are close to the caprock or along draws.

6. AESTHETIC AND RELATED VALUES: Due to limited production of forbs and woody vegetation and fairly sparse grass cover, the aesthetic value of this site is limited.

7. HYDROLOGIC CHARACTERISTICS: Surface runoff is moderate to rapid on these soils due to percent of slope. Water erosion is slight, when cover is good but overgrazed areas are subject to severe water erosion hazards.

8. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

a. Condition Class	Percentage Climax Vegetation	AC/AU/YL
Excellent	76 - 100	26 - 35
Good	51 - 75	32 - 48
Fair	26 - 50	45 - 60
Poor	0 - 25	55+

9. RELATIVE FORAGE VALUE OF SPECIES:

a. Cattle:

PRIMARY*	SECONDARY*	LOW VALUE*
Sideoats grama	Sand dropseed	False broomweed
Blue grama	Hairy grama	Hairy tridens
Buffalograss	Threeawns	Annuals
	Black grama	

b. Dove and Quail:

PRIMARY**	SECONDARY**	LOW VALUE**
Sand dropseed	Hooded windmillgrass	Threeawns
Bush sunflower	Halls panicum	Other grasses
Vine-mesquite		
Annuals		
Orange zexmenia		

DATE: _____

APPROVED BY: _____

MAY 30 1979